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Subject: Free IDL

Posted by [M. Vountas](#) on Thu, 25 Oct 2001 08:38:07 GMT

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Dear NG,

I am using IDL/Wave since 1993 for vizualisation purposes in the field of space imaging and atmospheric science.

Since then the pricing (including schools and universities) increased drastically.

We are spending now more then 10.000 Euro for about 20 licenses (the reseller told us that this is not the normal price but a special bargain- what a joke).

I am seriously thinking about leaving the IDL/Wave track and go for something cheaper or free software. Of course I would like to move to something that has some affinity to IDL but this does not necessarily must be the case (a colleague told me that something like scilab, a free matlab derivative might be helpful). On the other hand I read about gdl (a free IDL developed at sourcefourge), which is announced to be compatibel to IDL, but on sourcefourge they don't seem to make progress since 2000- This sounds not too promising...

At least one thing is clear to me and my colleagues, we don't want to support such (monopolist) pricing policy by still buying IDL, PV-Wave and related products as long as we can avoid it. And much more important: we cannot afford it any more!

I would like to ask the NG what is your opinion about the pricing? Have you made the same experience? And, if so, what are your proposals to prevent from being trapped in this way? Or do we only have the wrong reseller ;-)

Best wishes

Marco

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